

[English]

Export of Agricultural Products

6069. SHRI SOBHANAD-REESWARA

RAO VADDE:

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the various proposals with the Government for export of agricultural products such as rice, wheat, cotton, tobacco etc., as on February 1, 1992;

(b) whether the Government have evolved a new policy on export front to sustain increased agricultural exports; and

(c) if so the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Government has been receiving suggestions from various quarters from time to time boosting agricultural exports. The include a stable policy framework, conscious generation of surpluses for export, establishing backward linkage, providing incentives and assistance of various kinds to exporters, designing better packaging improving quality control measures, simplifying inspection and certification procedures, improving infrastructure support. The Government has been examining these suggestions and adopting these found feasible. It is a continuous process.

(b) and (c). The Government introduced a package of trade policy aimed at strengthening of export incentives, eliminating substantial volume of import licensing and optimal import compression. The system of advance licensing as an instrument of export promotion has also been strengthened. Government have decided to allow established exporters to open foreign currency

accounts in approved banks and allow established exporters to raise external credits, pay for export related imports from such accounts and credit export proceeds to such accounts. Besides, Government have taken other steps which include reducing controls through licensing, simplification of procedures for export, activation of Board of Trade, bilateral discussion with selected countries, interaction with national organisations of trade and industry etc.

Revenue from Tobacco Products

6070. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA

RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue collected by the Union Government by way of excise duty on cigarettes, beedies and other tobacco products during each of the last three years;

(b) the latest position of recovery of union excise duty due from the cigarette manufacturers in the country; and

(c) the action taken for speedy recovery of the outstanding amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Central Excise duty on cigarettes, beedies and other tobacco products realised by the Government during the years 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 is Rs. 1845.75 crores, Rs. 2177.51 crores and Rs. 2342.60 crores respectively.

(b) An amount of Rs. 142.09 crores is outstanding against the cigarette manufacturers.

(c) By and large, the recovery of the amount has been stayed by courts and quasi-judicial authorities. Instructions have been issued to get the stay vacated for speedy recovery of the outstanding arrears.